

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, and 20. Claims 1-24 remain pending in the present application.

For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, and 20 to correct minor typographical errors. Particularly, claim 1 has been amended to add the letter 's' to the word 'detail' in step (b) in correspondence with the antecedent use of the word 'details' in step (a). Claim 5 has been amended to replace the word 'the' with the word 'a' before 'central controller device' in step (c3), since that is the first recitation of the phrase for the claim. Further, claim 20 has been amended to include the word 'system' after 'mobile manager' in correspondence with the antecedent use of the phrase. Applicant respectfully submits that the claim scope has not been narrowed by these amendments and that no new matter has been entered.

Cited Art Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swinamer et al. (hereinafter 'Swinamer') in view of Business Wire, p06160247. In making the rejection, the Examiner states:

Swinamer et al. shows all of the limitations of the claims except for specifying the use of a wireless management device/PDA including displaying information and sending information to and from the PDA and the POS via a central controller also using wireless modems. Swinamer et al. shows, figure 1, a hardwired method of communicating (sending) request for management decisions (override details), including price information, credit clearance (monetary pick-up, approval), security alerts (lock up POS) and other incidents requiring the manager's attention. This is done for a plurality of POS terminals. The manager is at the master station (central controller system) and can determine through verbal

communication the satisfactoriness or unsatisfactoriness level of the POS terminal and has the ability to fix problems to ensure satisfactoriness.

Business Wire, p06160247, dated June 16, 1998 teaches that on the Retail Systems '98 conference in New Orleans where 3Com demonstrated its popular PalmPilot (TM) (wireless management device which receives, displays, and sends information wirelessly through a central controller such as a WAN. [sic]) connected organizer at Retail Systems '98. The Palm computing platform is an open software architecture for handheld computing that provides an ideal basis for third-party developers to create innovative mobile computing solutions. During Retail Systems '98 using the PathBuilder (TM) line of a WAN, 3com [sic] showed new on-line applications to the store supporting functions like human resources, decision support, special orders, and customer delivery all in order to improve information flow to better serve customers.

Based on the teachings of the above Business Wire article, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, as the time the invention was made, to modify the Swinamer system to incorporate the PalmPilots and WAN of 3com [sic] in order to improve information flow to better serve customers.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection

The present invention provides for efficient handling of an override condition in a point of sale device (POS). As recited in independent claim 1, in a method aspect, the method includes receiving override details at the POS device, and sending the override details from the POS device to a wireless management device. In a further aspect, recited in independent claims 7 and 17, a method and system provide efficient management interaction in a consumer transaction system. The aspect includes a plurality of point of sale (POS) systems, a central controller system coupled to the plurality of POS systems, and a mobile manager system. The mobile manager system communicates with the plurality of POS systems through the central controller system by a wireless communication mechanism and remotely monitors and responds to the plurality of POS systems. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art fails to teach, show, or suggest the recited utilization of a wireless management device with override details of a POS or the recited utilization of a wireless communication of a mobile manager with a central controller for remotely monitoring and responding to a plurality of POS systems.

Swinamer discloses connection of each clerk and bagger at each counter in a grocery store to each other and to a manager via an intercom system. As the Examiner states, it is through

'verbal communication' that the manager interacts with the clerks and baggers. The manager is not taught or suggested as being tied electronically to a point of sale (POS) device/cash register. While a computer may be used with the cash registers in the store, the computer is described as being used only as an accounting machine to audit the sales at the registers. There is nothing to teach or suggest receipt of override details at the register which are then sent to the computer. In fact, Swinamer does not teach or suggest anything regarding an override being received at a POS. The price information, credit clearance, and security alerts discussed in Swinamer as so-called 'override details' all occur as a result of a verbal communication from a clerk/bagger to the manager via the intercom system and are not activities that are taught or suggested as occurring in the POS.

The inclusion of the report from Business Wire with Swinamer does not overcome these insufficiencies in Swinamer to teach or suggest the recited invention. The PathBuilder technology referred to by the Examiner in the report is described as a line of WAN switches that address bandwidth requirements brought on by retailers deploying on-line applications. There is nothing in the report that teaches or suggests wireless managers in the discussion of the PathBuilder line of switches. The discussion in the report that does deal with a wireless device refers to Symbol Technologies' integration of infrared-based scanning into a PalmPilot device. By integrating infrared-based scanning, Applicant respectfully submits that the wireless device with such technology becomes comparable to register systems that use scanning for items being purchased by a customer, i.e., comparable to a POS device. Business Wire is silent as to the use of a wireless device for receiving override details from a POS or for remotely monitoring and responding to a plurality of POS systems. Thus, even if the arrangement of the intercom system in Swinamer were combined with the teachings of the Business Wire report, the resulting

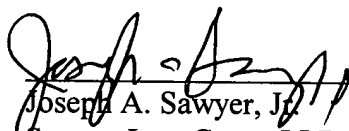
combination would not teach or suggest the recited aspects of the present invention. Rather, Applicant respectfully submits that combination would merely result in somehow allowing the use of a wireless device with infrared-based scanning ability from Business Wire in the store environment of Swinamer.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that recited invention is not taught, shown, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Attached hereto and captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made" is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification, claims and abstract by the current amendment.

Respectfully submitted,


 Joseph A. Sawyer, Jr.
 Sawyer Law Group LLP
 Attorney for Applicant(s)
 Reg. No. 30,801
 (650) 493-4540

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (amended) A method for efficiently handling an override condition in a point of sale device (POS), the method comprising:

- (a) receiving override details at the POS device; and
- (b) sending the override details from the POS device to a wireless management device.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. The method of claim 4 in which the override signal providing step (c1) further comprises:

- (c2) entering an override signal on the wireless management device;
- (c3) sending the override signal to [the] a central controller device from the wireless management device; and
- (c4) relaying the override signal from the central controller device to the POS device.

Please amend claim 20 as follows:

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the mobile manager system adjusts the status by remotely switching a status for a lock of the at least one POS system.